



Republic of the Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services
Administration (PAGASA)

LA NIÑA ADVISORY NO. 5

Moderate La Niña continue to persist across the tropical Pacific Ocean, although the sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the eastern equatorial Pacific have slightly warmed during the month. Most climate models suggest La Niña is likely to continue through Jan-Feb-March (~90% chance), with a rising probability of returning to ENSO-neutral during Mar-April-May season (> 50%).

La Niña increases the likelihood of having above normal rainfall conditions across most areas of the country, as what had been experienced during the previous months. Adverse impacts such as flooding and landslides are still expected over vulnerable areas and sectors of the country.

Assessment in January 2021

The weather systems that affected the country during the month were the Northeast (NE) monsoon, low pressure areas (LPAs), intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ), localized thunderstorms, easterlies and tail-end of frontal system (TEFS) or shear line. No tropical cyclone entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR). Flooding, landslides and damage to agriculture and infrastructure were experienced in Regions II, IV-A, IV-B, V, VI, VIII and BARMM due to the effects of TEFS, LPAs and ITCZ as reported in the NDRRMC situational report.

Rainfall assessment for the month showed that almost the entire country experienced above normal rainfall conditions, except for Batanes that received below normal rainfall and in Agusan del Norte and Surigao del Sur provinces, where near normal rainfall was observed.

The recorded mean surface air temperatures were generally near to below average in most parts of the country however, it was observed to be near to cooler than normal during the day, while near to warmer than normal at night. The temperature ranges were as follows: mountainous areas of Luzon: 9.4°C – 24.6°C; rest of Luzon: 14.0°C – 35.0°C; Visayas: 19.5°C – 33.2°C; mountainous areas of Mindanao: 14.6°C – 32.1°C; rest of Mindanao: 18.0°C – 35.5°C and Metro Manila: 19.9°C – 33.3°C.

Meanwhile, two (2) stations have surpassed their historical extreme temperatures for the month, namely; Tayabas, Quezon for maximum temperature (32.5°C on 25 January) and Surigao City for minimum temperature (18.0°C on 12 January).

Outlook for February 2021

The weather systems that will likely affect the country in February are the NE monsoon, localized thunderstorms, TEFS or shear line, LPAs, ITCZ, easterlies and zero (0) or one (1) tropical cyclone that may enter/develop in the PAR.

Rainfall forecast for the month shows that most parts of the country will generally experience near to above normal rainfall conditions, except for some areas in the western and central parts of Luzon that will likely receive below to way below normal rainfall.

Near to slightly below average surface air temperatures are predicted in most parts of Luzon and Visayas, while near to above average temperatures are expected mostly in Mindanao. Forecast ranges of temperature are as follows: 9.5°C – 27.0°C, over the mountainous areas of Luzon; 14.0°C – 36.5°C for the rest of Luzon; 19.0°C – 37.0°C in the Visayas; 14.0°C – 35.0°C, over the mountainous areas of Mindanao; 19.0°C – 37.0°C, for the rest of Mindanao and 18.5°C – 37.0°C in Metro Manila. Occasional surges of cold temperature will still be prevalent over the northern portions of Luzon.

PAGASA will continue to closely monitor the on-going La Niña and regular updates/advisories shall be issued as appropriate. Meanwhile, all concerned government agencies and the public are advised to take precautionary measures to mitigate the potential impacts of this event. For further information, please contact the Climatology and Agrometeorology Division (CAD) at telephone number 8284-0800, local 906.

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